

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-15 (cancelled)

16 (Original). An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image bearing member;

a charger member disposed in contacting relation with the image bearing member, and having a rubber hardness of 40 to 90 degrees and a volume electrical resistance of  $1 \times 10^4$  to  $1 \times 10^{10}$   $\Omega \cdot \text{cm}$  at its portion contacting the image bearing member;

a developing device including a developer carrying member for carrying a toner on its surface, a storage portion for storing the toner containing an organic aromatic solvent and a vinyl monomer in combined concentrations of not more than 500 ppm, and a regulating member disposed in contacting relation with the surface of the developer carrying member for regulating the amount of toner carried on the developer carrying member, the developing device operating to form a toner image on the image bearing member; and

a transfer member for transferring the toner image thus formed on the image bearing member onto a receiving medium.

17 (Original). The image forming apparatus as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the charger member is a charger roller comprising a metallic roller and a surface layer laid over an outer periphery of the roller.

18 (Original). The image forming apparatus as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the surface layer has a rubber hardness of 50 to 80 degrees and a volume electrical resistance of  $1 \times 10^5$  to  $1 \times 10^9$   $\Omega \cdot \text{cm}$ .

19 (Original). The image forming apparatus as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the toner contains the organic aromatic solvent and the vinyl monomer in combined concentrations of not more than 300 ppm.

20 (Original). The image forming apparatus as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the transfer member is a transfer roller.

21 (New). The image forming apparatus is claimed in Claim 17, wherein the surface layer includes an elastic layer formed from elastic materials and a coat layer laid over the elastic layer.

22 (New). An image forming apparatus comprising:  
an image bearing member;  
a charger member disposed in contacting relation with the image bearing member, and  
having a rubber hardness of 40 to 90 degrees and a volume electrical resistance of  $1 \times 10^4$  to  $1 \times 10^{10}$   
 $\Omega \cdot \text{cm}$  at its portion contacting the image bearing member;  
a developing device operating to form a toner image on the image bearing member;  
wherein the developing device comprises:  
a developer carrying member for carrying a toner on its surface; and a storage portion for  
storing the toner containing an organic aromatic solvent and a vinyl monomer in combined  
concentrations of not more than 500 ppm.